

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

March 2016



## MARCH PROGRAM

ASCENSION ISLAND—SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTPOST

BY: ART GODDARD, W6XD

## MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M.

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## From the Prez . . .

*John Vissat, NA6L*



By the time you read this [VK0EK the DXpedition to Heard Island](#) should be in full swing. They will be operating from two different locations on the Island.

The second location (later in the DXpedition) looks like it will provide a better chance for us "Left" coast stations. And if you have not spent some time reading their website you are really missing a fantastic guide/tutorial about how to work them. The site is much more than an asset to work VK0 it is a wonderful compilation about how to work ALL DX -- nice job VK0 team! Of special interest is that they are running a WSPR beacon 7/24 and think that this is a first for any DXpedition -- more about WSPR at the April SDDXC presentation.

Also of note, currently on the DX scene is the [VK9CK Cocos Is.](#) group and an all band (TB guys take note) individual effort as FP/KV1J on Miquelon Is. [FP/KV1J on Miquelon Is.](#)

FT4JA Juan de Nova is scheduled to go live on March 31 and I'm sure that it will also be an ATNO for many of us.

Thanks to the hard work by Miguel KJ6YXI and Howard W6HDG, the club polo shirts will be available at the Wednesday meeting, March 23rd. Please attend or make arrangements to have your shirts picked up for you.

Another shout-out goes to Terry N6CW who suggested our speaker for the May program. Ned AA7A will be presenting "Journey to the Edge - The 2016 VP8 DXpeditions to South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands" -- looks like a fabulous program. [South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands](#)

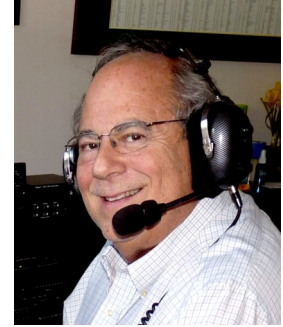
It took some detective work but I confirmed that at a recent meeting it was Peter Krause KJ6VCM that first offered to pay for Levy's KK6NON membership -- thank you Peter. The next thing that happened was that the attending members quickly paid Peter back using green stamps passed in his direction -- he may have even made a few bucks - thank you members! Who says that HAMS are cheap? This really is a great part of what we do as a club and what HAM RADIO is all about!

See you all this Wednesday (3-23) for another great presentation.

*John, NA6L*

## Vice President Report

Howard, W6HDG



### Working DX.....Shouting at Random People?

(Reprinted with permission and condensed from the PARC Newsletter)

I have three sons who never caught the ham radio bug. That was fine with me. Until one of my kids sent a dagger through my heart by saying, "What is the point of ham radio? You just shout at random people!"

Our hobby is sometimes hard to get across to others.

Have you ever had a dinner party and for one reason or another got the opportunity to show off the ham shack to the uninitiated? I don't know about you, but I rarely have a good experience doing this. Maybe I'm just a poor ham ambassador, but my friends develop a courteous but blank stare and inevitably start asking questions like, "So what exactly do you say to them?"

But rather than this turning into a Rodney Dangerfield joke (no respect....), I have to defend our hobby.

First off, there are in fact many "ridiculous" hobbies, at least on the surface. I don't ridicule my friends who are into golfing, fishing, bird watching, or coin/stamp collecting. I don't ask golfers, "So what do you do after hitting the little ball in the hole?" Golfers will also claim that theirs is a physical sport. But how can it be a sport when you burn less than 100 calories in 18 holes if you use a cart? Heck, I can burn more than that cranking up a tower. I think stamp or coin collectors get away with their activities because there is the possibility of financial gain – and that is always an easy one to get across to others. They don't get asked, "so you put them in a little book and then what do you do?"

The fact that we get passionate about radios, antennas, rag-chewing, "Elmering", contesting and rare DX is in fact hard to explain. Others may not get it, but the knowledge, skills, and challenges of our hobby create a special thrill that is hard to put into words. All I know is that we deeply love our hobby. Fortunately we have the ham fraternity and our DX Club to understand and verify our magnificent obsession.

73 and Gud DX

Howard, W6HDG

## Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



San Diego DX Club Meeting Minutes February 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by John, NA6L, at the Sizzler Restaurant.

Visitors - Bo, N0BK and Ulla, K7AFB

New guys attending Eric Gruff, NC6K, Randy Standke, KQ6RS, Scott Rights, N6PG.

Old Business - Miguel is ready to start taking shirt orders and hopes to have the shirts for the next meeting.

Volunteers are still needed for staffing the registration table at Visalia. Contact Howard, W6HDG [groveman@cox.net](mailto:groveman@cox.net)

Dues payments are still being accepted. Use the PayPal links for multiple years

For 1 year <http://PayPal.me/DXClub/20>

For 2 year <http://PayPal.me/DXClub/40>

For 3 year <http://PayPal.me/DXClub/60>

or fire off a check (payable to San Diego DX Club Inc) and mail to

Ellen Utschig

2104 Poplar Rd

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ClubLog participation is increasing. Our Club is 53<sup>rd</sup> globally (after being 31<sup>st</sup> last year). Your information needs to be uploaded annually so, if you haven't done so already, please re-submit your logs.

New Business – none.

W5BN announced that he has sold his house in Coronado and is moving to New York. He circulated a list of available equipment he has for sale.

After the break, the group heard a Presentation from Rick K0XB on Stealth Antennas at his Coronado rental house.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance 2/29/2016 \$6361.46

Ellen, N6UWW



## THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

### TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 80 METERS

3/16	3/15CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1. W6YA	40	?	?	305	+2
2.	2. K6XT	40	298	302	302	+1
3.	3. K6NA	40	?	?	292	-
4.	4. W6YI	40	277	281	287	-
5.	5. K6AM	40	241	244	252	+1
6.	6. N7CW	40	227	227	247	-
7.	7. N6CW	40	?	211	235	-
8.	8. K0XB	37	179	181	188	-
9.	9. K6ZH	32	159	162	163	-
10.	- W6YOO	31	159	162	162	NEW

### TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 20 METERS

3/16	3/15CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1. W6YA	40	339	379	379	-
2.	2. N6CW	40	?	360	368	-
3.	3. W6YI	40	339	356	356	-
4.	4. K6AM	40	339	348	348	-
5.	5. K9RHY	40	336	347	347	-
6.	7. K6XT	40	334	347	347	+2
7.	10. K5OA	40	327	345	347	+6
6.	6. W6YOO	40	337	345	345	-
9.	8. K6ZH	40	330	339	344	-
10.	9. K0XB	40	334	343	343	-

Jim, W6YA pulls a bit further ahead at number one on 80 with just two new ones, while the rest of the top ten holds steady. The news on 20 is K5OA moving up three slots in the tightly packed bottom half of the list after being scarce for several years. The rest of the leader board remains cast in stone

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 15 meters, and the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

### SDDXC RESULTS 2015 CQ WPX CW DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO LP (T)	KI6RRN	2,393,640	1,644	732	#1 W6, #4 NA, #11 WORLD
SO LP	WN6K	1,106,820	1,044	495	#2 W6
SA LP	W6JBR	4,522	45	38	
SA HP	NO6T	446,512	585	344	
Checklog	N6CW	414,510	554	337	
Checklog	W6YA	518,076	504	324	

## From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



George R. (Dick) McKercher, W0MLY became a Silent Key on 31 May 1999 as a "Top DXers", with 380 DXCC-Entities confirmed. First licensed 1930 as W4DVL, Dick DXpeditioned extensively during the 1950's and 60's mostly but not exclusively in Africa. Dick was a member of YASME's Board of Directors and an ARRL Life Member.

I first met Dick at a W9DXCC convention in Schaumburg, IL in 1984. Living in Rippey, Iowa and owning an active ham-oriented business (Antenna Mart, specializing in remote antenna switches) attending a local DX conference was a "no-brainer" for Dick. My most intense memory came from the annual DX countdown conducted by Jim C'Connell, W9WU. I suspect you know the drill: Everyone holding a DXCC certificate stands up and the MC starts counting up from 100 (usually in increments of 50—dropping to increments of 10 and finally to one until there is only one DXer left standing. My recollection was that Dick and Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, (who became a Silent Key in 2013 with 394 confirmed entities) were always the last standing.

In the early years I had to sit down pretty early in the countdown, but in more recent times, I continued standing for a bit longer, but not even close to these Giants of DXing.



(Although this wasn't intended to be a nostalgia piece, researching through CQ and QST editions from the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's sure brings back a lot of fond memories. I suspect some of you OT's can relate to that.)

One piece of good news, the history of DXing is rich with stories about DXers past on whose shoulders we now stand. There is no shortage of material from which your SDDXC editor can draw upon for future editions of the Bulletin.

One more tidbit about the history of DXing, pictured above is a photo snapped by your Editor at an impromptu meeting of YASME officials W0MLY with Lloyd, W6KG and Iris Colvin, W6QL, posing in front of a list of the Colvin's many DXpeditions. I believe I took this picture at the W9DXCC convention in 1985.



## From the Editor (cont'd)

### Now to Africa.

Before leaving on his African tour of the “Terrible T’s”, Dick had operated from 97 DXCC entities, making him an old hand at pounding brass from remote locations. The “Terrible T’s” were part of the African Federated States which included Gabon, Congo, the Central African Republic and Chad.

The trip starts in April, 1962 as Dick travels to Gabon to operate as W0MLY/TR8. Reading his travel notes in the ham literature of the day describes international travel as a lot different back then. Dick’s challenges were mainly logistical (and mostly of his own doing): travelling without confirmed accommodations, equipment that never arrived, being stranded at airports, not carrying enough cash (credit cards were pretty scarce then), etc.

The Gabon operation was closed down at 0700Z (still called GMT in 1962), June 6th after 2700 QSOs. The

gear was then packed and shipped to Bangui in the Central African Republic, (TL8-land), where it arrived on a Sunday—a day on which the Customs office takes off. But at least Dick had a hotel room, unlike in Gabon where he slept in an apartment that was leased to an American embassy employee who was away on leave.

En route to the Central African Republic, and with TN8 operating permission secured, W0MLY entered the Republic of the Congo and made 46 contacts as W0MLY/TN8 from the QTH of TN8AY.

Operation as W0MLY/TL8 then started on June 13th at 1815 GMT. Dick made 2,340 QSO’s.

Dick next operated from the Republic of the Congo as W0MLY/TN8. This gets confusing, but the Republic of the Congo today is often called Congo (Brazzaville), with its capital added parenthetically, to distinguish it from the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is often referred to by its acronym, the DRC, or called Congo (Kinshasa). Are we there yet?



Map of Africa in 1962 with W0MLY DXpedition Stops



## From the Editor (cont'd)

After wrapping up the short operation from TN8, Dick flew to his next stop in Bangui, Gabon. Operation from W0MLY/TL8 started on June 13th at 1815 GMT. Operating from the Hotel Rock, Dick was asked to relocate from the ground floor to the top floor at 2:30 AM local time because he was disturbing other guests in the hotel.

Wrapping up after making 2340 QSOs, Dick set out for a bus and truck ride through the African countryside to the village of Bayanga in the Republic of the Congo for a longer operation. Here he set up his station in a mud hut after arriving at 3:30 AM local time. Before Dick's arrival, there had been no SSB operation from TN8 so Dick provided a new mode QSO to many of the Deserving of the day. He fired up the rig and made the first QSO at 1810 GMT on June 18. His departure was delayed by 24 hours because of a rain storm that made the rivers rise making road travel impossible. A total of 1140 SSB contacts were made from TN8.

The next stop was in Chad, where Dick operated as W0MLY/TT8 from the Hotel Chasser in Fort Archambault. Fort Archambault is much smaller than the main city in Chad, Fort Lamay, but this location was chosen because the prices were about one-half of what they were in Fort Lamay. This leg of the trip did not start off well (remember my comments about logistics?) because there was no transportation available from the airport to the hotel. Dick improvised and hired six locals (at \$2.00 per day each) to carry his six boxes of equipment and luggage to the town and the hotel.

Operation from W0MLY/TT8 commenced on June 22 at 1630 GMT. A few hours later the lights went out (welcome to the 3rd world, Dick). The reason for the outage was that the hotel management turned off the generator at 10:00 PM local time because they did not want to pay the attendant/operator to keep it running after 10:00. Quick-thinking Dick decided to pick up the tab to keep the generator operating 24 hours per day for the remainder of his stay. This set him back \$5.20 per day.

The TT8 operation came to a close after 1781 QSOs at 0552 GMT on June 27th.

Next on the agenda was travel to Duala in the Cameroons and operation as W0MLY/TJ8. Arriving on June 28, Dick started operating on June 29th and wrapped up with 2028 QSOs on July 5th. Because the hotel manager had "discovered" the equipment in Dick's hotel room, a surcharge of \$2.00 per day was added on to cover the cost of the extra electricity usage.

Next onto the La Plage Hotel in Contineau in the Republic of Dahomey and operation as TY2MY. The operation started on July 9th and closed down a week later after making 1674 QSOs. Conditions were not good.

The trip to Togo and operation as 5V7MY followed. Arriving in Lome, Dick checked into the Hotel Benim, a "luxury" location (which meant a swimming pool and air conditioning). Conditions continued to be poor, so only 1646 QSOs were logged.

The last stop on the DXpedition was in Mali and operation as W0MLY/TZ2. The operation from Mali started on July 24 but ended VERY abruptly on the 27th. The hotel caught fire, abruptly curtailing the



## From the Editor (cont'd)

operation. All the gear was lost as well as some cash and papers. Dick saved the logs (on paper back then). His passport was at the American Embassy and his ticket home was at the Air France office, so he ended up travelling a lot lighter than when he arrived.

Clearly, a one-person DXpedition in 1962 was an adventure. But Dick persevered to provide a "New One" to many of the Deserving of the day. It's hard to imagine schlepping a Hallicrafters HT-37, SX-115 and a P&H linear all over central Africa. Operating from these "hardship" locations took a lot of courage and tenacity. Also, travel in that part of the world (even today in 2016) is a recipe for disaster if you accidentally eat or drink some of the local chow. (I can verify that just brushing your teeth in Africa can lead to an experience you would rather forget).

Thanks and 73 to a REAL DXer.

Bob, K9RHY

## March Meeting Speaker

### Ascension Island - South Atlantic Outpost

We've all worked Ascension Island, ZD8, but what does the place actually LOOK like? Definitely you wouldn't go there for the cuisine or nightlife, but there are other attractions. And the island is changing slowly with the creation of Green Mountain National Park and renewed emphasis on conservation and the planned formation of a marine sanctuary.

March speaker, Art Goddard, W6XD/ZD8G, will take you along on a 2015 CQWW contest expedition to Ascension Island. Tune into this program to get a feel for the place that has been pioneered by contesting greats like Jim, N6TJ/ZD8Z, Oliver, W6NV/ZD8W, and Marko, N5ZO/ZD8O

### *Biography: Art Goddard W6XD*

Art Goddard became interested in Short Wave Listening in 1954, using the family's Philco console radio. In 1956, he earned his novice Amateur Radio license. He worked his way up through the ranks to Amateur Extra class. Art's radio activities include HF/VHF, DX, and contests.

Art is a life member of ARRL and Past Director of ARRL Southwestern Division. Professionally, he is a consultant in electronics systems, retired from Boeing (formerly Collins Radio and Rockwell International). Art and his wife Mary Ellen live in Costa Mesa, CA.

